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WAR SUFFERERS'
RELIEF BULLETIN

"Not to be ministered unto, but to minister"

March, 1945 — Vol. 1, No. 1

Feb 1947

Relief Commission to the Middle East

By J. N. Byler

Bro. Byler has recently returned from the Middle East, where he was sent in the summer of 1944 as Mennonite relief commissioner. In addition to the assignment of organizing the Mennonite relief workers now in Egypt, he was commissioned to investigate the refugee situation in Palestine and Syria. Bro. Byler is now serving as Director of Relief at the Akron Headquarters.—Editor.

Samuel Yoder and I left Norfolk, Virginia, August 13, 1944, on the S. S. **Alcinous,** and after twenty-five days of exceptionally smooth sailing, we arrived at Alexandria, Egypt. After spending approximately one month in Egypt, we proceeded to Palestine via Army truck. The trip across the desert, although interesting, we do not care to repeat. Our stay in Palestine continued until November 2, when we arrived at Beirut, Syria. We left Syria on November 14 and after a two-day stopover in Jerusalem, we again arrived at Cairo, Egypt, where we met S. F. Pannabecker, who gave us much appreciated and valuable assistance in planning our Middle East program. After considerable delay in securing passage to England, U.N.R.R.A. succeeded in securing a "3" priority for me. This permitted me to fly via the British Airways, arriving at Poole Harbor, England, December 21. On January 25, 1945, Glen Miller and I sailed for America, arriving in New York on February 9. We are thankful for the protecting care of our heavenly Father on all of these journeys.

EGYPT

After arriving in Egypt we at once contacted our M.C.C. representatives on the field, Delvin Kirchhofer and Dr. C. Richard Yoder, who immediately came to Cairo. With them we contacted a number of men in the Welfare Division of U.N.R.R.A., who agreed to use added Mennonite personnel in the various refugee camps. Since we were contemplating further personnel, our chief concern at this time was to have Samuel Yoder and other M.C.C. workers, who might arrive on the field before our survey was completed, assigned to service in refugee camps with the understanding that after our return from Palestine and Syria we could use these people in our own program if we so desired.

After our return from Palestine and Syria we called to Cairo all of the nine M.C.C. workers who were then on the field for a two-day conference. It was the feeling of the entire group that since U.N.R.R.A. was willing to use our M.C.C. personnel in Yugoslav refugee camps to carry on while other voluntary society personnel were training to proceed to the Balkans, we should assign our people to this service, which, in our opinion, was the most needy in this area. It also afforded the greatest opportunity for personal witness.

U.N.R.R.A. agreed to assign our M.C.C. personnel to two Yugoslav refugee camps, Tolumbat and El Shatt, thus making it possible for the workers to be in contact with each other. Personally I feel that this arrangement of using our M.C.C.-sponsored workers in these camps places us in a very favorable position. If U.N.R.R.A. enters Yugoslavia, all of our Middle East unit workers (those loaned to U.N.R.R.A., plus those we have sent over) will be able to go into Yugoslavia when the time comes for the refugees to go home. On

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the other hand, if U.N.R.R.A. does not enter Yugoslavia, we will have a goodly number of M.C.C.-sponsored workers who may be able to accompany these refugees when they return to their homes.

I am impressed with the high quality of the Mennonite personnel in the Middle East unit. Each one is doing a good job and is being respected by his superiors and fellow workers as well as by the refugees among whom they are working. In the Middle East relief circles the name "Mennonite" is beginning to stand for the things that we believe in and want our workers to represent.

PALESTINE

There are many relief and welfare committees in Palestine and the work they are doing, especially among the Jews, is very efficient. U.N.R.R.A. has a camp for Greek refugees at Neusert, near Gaza. There are in addition to this camp over one thousand Greek refugees in the Jerusalem area. These are taken care of by funds of the Greek Government. I learned that the Jewish Yugoslav refugees were well cared for while the non-Jewish Yugoslavs were not so well cared for. However, after asking for names of needy refugees so that we could contact them personally, we found that the ones actually in need were very few and could easily be cared for by other organizations. After considerable investigation, it was our feeling that the need there is not sufficient for the opening of a new service.

SYRIA

In Syria my contacts centered chiefly around the Friends Ambulance Unit and Dr. Dodge, President of the American University in Beirut. As near as I could determine, the refugees in Syria and Lebanon are well provided for. U.N.R.R.A. has a camp near Aleppo. A group of Armenian refugees are in a settlement near Beirut. These, I was told, are being helped now by two organizations. Dr. Dodge, who is chairman of a committee in charge of the Spears Mobile Clinic, arranged for me to visit two of these units. We spent two days with the clinic at Latakia, in northern Syria, and two days with the unit at Selemye, east of Hama in central Syria. This work, I was convinced, is very much worth while although it is not a direct relief project.

Notes from the Field

Puerto Rico Dental Office.—After the safe arrival of the dental equipment here at La Plata, October 20, it was necessary to find space in which to place the twenty-one cases of supplies. Since sufficient space was no longer available in the hospital, there was a need to find space elsewhere for the dental office. The rooms in the near-by medical center, a building erected by P.R.R.A., proved to be very satisfactory. Before it was possible to set up the equipment in these two rooms, much repairing, cleaning, and painting had to be done. . . . The final arrangement of the office was accomplished and the date of opening was set for December 4. An extensive program has been planned and will include school children, people of the La Plata Valley, and members of the La Plata, Castaner, and Zalduando C.P.S. units.—Earl Stover.

Relief Clothing in Egypt.—I must tell you of the unexpected pleasure I had one day when I helped to unpack several bales of M.C.C. clothing. That was a thrill I shall never forget. We were very short of linens on the wards. When the bales arrived, I asked to be allowed to have some of the linen for our use, especially diapers and gowns. I was, shall I say, very proud to be able to say that the agency under which I was serving had sent the clothing. I heard many complimentary remarks about the clothing, as to workmanship, quality of materials, uniformity of labeling, and packing of the garments. I am very certain many an ill child was made much warmer and more comfortable by the clothing which our sisters' sewing circles have been so faithfully supplying and sending out. If only you could see how they are appreciated!—Grace Augsburger.

Relief Training at Denison.—Paul Mininger of Goshen College completed a course in First Corinthians. All those who took this course received it with enthusiasm and wholeheartedly participated in the discussions. . . . In the second semester an effort is being made to get at least one speaker a month who has had actual experience in the foreign relief field. The emphasis in the course, Social Psychology, will be on actual social case work.

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Thinking about Relief

Upon the appearance of the **War Sufferers' Relief Bulletin** we might comment a bit about its purpose and also indicate the policy and practice of the Mennonite Central Committee in regard to publicity.

We have felt for some time that a newsletter containing more detailed, up-to-date information concerning the relief program should be made available for members from our constituency who are interested in keeping a closer touch with relief activities. Frequently, the publicity office has been unable to provide requested information because an adequate vehicle to convey such materials was lacking. Through the **W.S.R. Bulletin**, we trust, we will be able to serve the constituency more fully in this respect.

The **W.S.R. Bulletin** will bring current news—we are endeavoring not to duplicate releases in the church papers—and as a whole it will contain more lengthy items taken from the letters of relief workers, relief bulletins, committee minutes, etc. Such materials, we hope, will help to provide a fuller understanding of, and a better acquaintance with, the relief program. In this column, "Thinking about Relief," we hope to call attention to significant developments in the relief program, point out, if possible, a bit of the spirit and action behind the news, and comment on relief matters in general. One page of this bulletin has been reserved for a few news items about the Civilian Public Service, Peace, and Mennonite Aid Sections. But, as a whole, the **W.S.R. Bulletin** will be a Mennonite relief newsletter.

General information regarding the relief program is being provided for the Mennonite constituency through the church papers in the form of weekly news notes and in the form of more lengthy feature articles. Yearly reports in the form of folders and pamphlets are sent to the churches to be distributed on the basis of one per family. For the men in C.P.S. camps the "Mennonite C.P.S. Bulletin" is printed semimonthly. "Relief News Letter" is released to keep relief trainees and prospective workers informed concerning relief activities and developments throughout the world. Other releases from the Akron Office are the "Headquarters Letter" and the "Women's Activities Letter." The former is a semi-confidential letter with a circulation of about two hundred among the camps and church leaders. This paper may be discontinued and become a part of the **W.S.R. Bulletin.** The "Women's Activities Letter" provides suggestions and information for leaders of women in the relief clothing and C.P.S. canning programs. The monthlies from Puerto Rico, England, and Paraguay are prepared on the relief fields and the technical work of reproduction and distribution is handled at Akron. The most significant and interesting parts of these regional relief bulletins will find their way into this new bulletin. We are hoping to make the **W.S.R. Bulletin** the standard news letter to members in the constituency who wish to keep informed on M.C.C. activities. Releases to church papers will continue as before.

As the **W.S.R. Bulletin** is prepared from month to month, it is our desire that it may accurately report what the Mennonite churches are doing to relieve and alleviate the present distress. We hope, too, that this paper may impart something of the concern and the spirit in which the relief program is being conducted.

N.P.A. SERIES ON RELIEF AND REHABILITATION

To secure reliable and comprehensive information concerning the relief situation in Europe and Asia, to gain some insight into what will need to be done in the tremendous task of repairing the human and material damage wrought by the present war, the National Planning Association's series of six pamphlets on relief and rehabilitation should be studied carefully. Probably they are the most valuable single source of information on relief and rehabilitation needs as a result of the present war. They represent the findings of a committee with broad experience in the field of relief administration and service. The pamphlets are brief, factual, and adapted for the person who needs to understand the general problems of relief and yet has not the opportunity or sufficient time for extensive research. The six pamphlets with their prices are listed as follows:

Relief for Europe	25¢
Food for Europe after Victory	25¢
U.N.R.R.A. Gateway to Recovery	50¢
Clothing and Shelter for European Relief	25¢
Europe's Uprooted People	25¢
China's Relief Needs	25¢

Order directly from the National Planning Association, 800 Twenty-First Street, Washington 6, D.C.

"Secours Mennonite Aux Enfants" During the Occupation

For two years there had been a blackout of news from France and Mennonites had no way of knowing what had become of their relief projects in Southern France. This much was known: Roger Georges, a young Christian Frenchman, had been left in charge, with sufficient funds to slowly liquidate the various projects. When the Mennonite relief workers, Henry Buller and Lois Gunden, were interned in January, 1943, the following activities were being carried on: a canteen at Cerbere, a convalescent home at Canet-Plage, a colony for children at Tourvielle, and vegetable and milk distribution at Banyuls and Collioures.

By the end of 1944 France had been liberated and was occupied by the Allies. Military control forbade entrance into France and no word concerning the relief projects could be secured. Then, unexpectedly, a letter came from Roger Georges via England. The letter contained a full report of how certain projects were liquidated, others begun as funds permitted, and, also that several projects are still continuing and the French workers are eagerly awaiting the arrival of Mennonite workers. Mr. Georges' report was titled, "Report of the Activities of the 'Secours Mennonite Aux Enfants' in France Since the Parting of the American Delegates, Mr. Buller and Miss Gunden." May we tell you about some of the experiences and activities which Mr. Georges has reported?

PROJECT DISCONTINUED

The canteen at Cerbere was closed March 31, 1943, as had been recommended by the departing American workers. Increasing difficulties with the German authorities also made it imperative that this project be closed. The colony for boys at Tourvielle, in the suburbs of Lyon, was liquidated in April of the same year. The distribution of vegetables and milk at Banyuls and Collioures was discontinued in the early spring of 1943.

PROJECTS INITIATED AND CLOSED DURING THE OCCUPATION

The Mennonite workers had been contemplating the opening of a canteen for school children at Banyuls. Mr. Georges was able to carry these plans out and for six months fed fifty children one meal a day. Later in 1943 a colony for children was opened at Chatillon de Michaille, northwest of Lyon. This project continued for exactly one year and provided a home for one hundred children from Lyon and Paris. Support was also given to a girls' colony at Les Houches. This was begun in January, 1943, but was discontinued in April of the same year because of the confusion of the work with other organizations.

A considerable amount of the remaining relief funds had been deposited at the Swiss Consulate when the Mennonite workers were interned. These funds, 950,000 francs, were unexpectedly frozen in March, 1943, and caused a temporary curtailment of some of the relief projects. Mr. Georges, however, in faith, decided to make several loans to tie over until the funds would be released. He could not find it in himself to turn the children into the streets, especially the Spanish and Jewish refugees. Finally, in July of this same year the relief monies were again placed at the disposal of the relief workers.

PROJECTS IN OPERATION AT PRESENT

The convalescent home of Canet-Plage continues, but it was necessary to move to Lavercantiere "because of the requisition of the building by the German troops." This came about because the colony was located on the Mediterranean beach. At Lavercantiere the home was expanded and ninety children from Normandy, Marseille, and Perpignan were placed together with the Spanish and Jewish children who were in the original colony.

Two other projects were begun—a nursery at Plottes and a children's colony at Vescours—which are likely in operation at the present time. Reporting concerning the opening of these projects, Mr. Georges writes, "The misery and needs of many regions of France had still increased and our Christian spirit led us to intensify the help to the French children and to improve our work."

A reading of this report from Mr. Georges gives one the decided feeling that the relief activities were continued along the same lines and in the same spirit as the original workers had begun them.

Reports from the Desert

The following reports are excerpts from letters of Mennonite relief workers who are serving among Yugoslav refugees in Egypt. Samuel Yoder has been assigned to welfare work at the El Shatt Camp. Ervin Hooley is also at the El Shatt Camp, with the task of managing workshops. Mary Emma Showalter is stationed at the Tolumbat Camp, a camp for mothers and small children, where she is supervising the child feeding.

THE THREE PERIC SISTERS

Here is an incident that merits telling, I believe. The three Peric sisters' father went to Bolivia before the war to look after some property. They were to follow later with their mother and brother. Well, the mother got sick and could not go, and eventually died. Meanwhile, the war came on; the brother went into the army, and the three sisters found themselves refugees down here. Their father had been negotiating to get the daughters through to him in Bolivia. But the papers cost him quite a bit. The other day I got a note for the sisters to get pictures and make other arrangements and also to write and telegram to their father, as he had not heard from them for a year. They told me that they had been writing all along but that letters do not get through. I suggested a telegram. They said that they did not have the money. After consulting several other M.C.C. workers, I offered to send the telegram and book the M.C.C. We sent it. Several weeks later I met one of them. I always try to chatter a word or two in Spanish to them because they can speak it. So, I said, "Buenos dias, Senorita." She immediately beamed at me and started off at a terrific rate in Spanish. Of course, I did not understand, but after getting an interpreter, I found that they had just received a reply from their father. I suppose the telegram was worth it. It at least brought some joy to the three sisters.

—Samuel Yoder.

DIRECTING SHOP ACTIVITIES

I am glad to say that I am sure we really fill a large place in the camp maintenance and welfare. In our carpenter shop we make chairs, stools, benches, beds, stands, tables, desks, doors, cabinets, suitcases, kitchen equipment, hygiene equipment, etc. Much of our material is taken from salvaged crafts. The tinsmiths also have supplies because much of the food comes in tin containers. Out of these cans we make thousands of cups and pails, many with lids and quite neatly finished too. Candle holders, ladles, and other kitchen equipment, and many repair jobs are turned out of the tinsmith shops. The cobblers are doing a marevlous job of helping to keep the camp in shoes. Out of airplane tires, canvas, and rope we turn out a lot of very serviceable shoes. Nails and thread are quite prominent among the scarce articles that must be purchased outside the camp. The tires and canvas are also very hard to get, as well as the heavier lumber for the carpenters. You may wonder how the rope is used. It is unraveled, then braided into about ⅜ or ½ inch cord, and then wound and sewed into a flat pad which is used as an insole. With the exception of a few odd jobs, the sailmakers occupy their time repairing old and torn tents. Thanks to the blacksmiths, we have many tools to work with. We make hammers, punches, chisels, plane blades, screw drivers, knives, pliers, can openers, and even rasps. I think, all in all, we are doing a pretty decent job for the circumstances we are in. On the other hand, there is room for lots and lots of improvement.—Ervin Hooley.

FEEDING CHILDREN

I have finally gotten the child feeding program going in full swing. I have my ups and downs as we all do, but the reports coming from the Yugoslav mothers are less critical. There are still some mothers who do not understand why I insist that their one- to nine-year-olds should drink cocoa instead of coffee, or why I try to get extra milk into their diets by serving cream custards, or why I want to give them rice twice a day. But today I was grateful when I was told that the mothers are beginning to admit that their children are gaining weight. Certainly one's efforts are not in vain.—Mary Emma Showalter.

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I have always and in every way taught that one man should have compassion on another; that he should feed the hungry, give to the thirsty, and clothe the naked; for in truth we are not masters of our possessions but stewards or dispensers only.—Balthasar Hubmaier.

What for the Future?

The relief project near Aibonito, Puerto Rico, was begun in 1943 with a twofold emphasis—medical service and community building. Now that the war is being prolonged and the possibility of permanent conscription is on the horizon, what lines should the Mennonite program in Puerto Rico follow? Should the present project be supplemented by a more direct missionary program? A C.P.S. member of the Mennonite unit discusses these questions and offers his conclusion.

Perhaps we should take a look at our own present program in evaluating its accomplishments. Is it a program worth continuing? This question will confront us before the postwar period begins. Should the program be altered to a more direct missionary project and which portion of the present work, if any, should be discontinued? Postwar conscription, which seems probable, would have a direct bearing on the latter question. Those who consider this a relief project of the church would possibly see more value in a medical service than in community building. While this is probably a debatable question, there is something in which most of us are agreed. Either or both of these programs are not sufficient for the future. The missionary aspect, which the present C.P.S. project cannot supply very efficiently now, should be the primary objective in a future program. There are many social and physical needs of the many people in Puerto Rico, but unless we can also meet the spiritual needs of the people we fail in the most vital point. Certainly our present "good work" supplemented by the testimony of our Christian lives is a very positive influence toward a future missionary endeavor.

There are frequent occasions when people have already shown interest in a missionary project, which makes us feel that this is a field ready to harvest. They are our friends and elated when we visit in their homes. They have been eager to receive and read Bibles and Testaments which were given to them through a recent Bible distribution program. Many have asked for a Bible and others have shown interest by reading. They have been interested in our activities and our religion.

If C.P.S. should continue through postwar conscription, there should also be a missionary effort along with a program similar to the present one. Jesus went about healing the soul as well as the body. The same combination should serve for us also. Dare we neglect the greatest need of these people?—By Earl Maust, from "Rio La Plata."

Outline of Relief Program in Paraguay

After visiting the Mennonite colonies and reviewing the present relief program in Paraguay, during his visit in the late summer of 1944, the Executive Secretary of the M.C.C. offered the following memorandum of understanding regarding continuing concerns of the Mennonite relief program in Paraguay. This outline of concerns is to continue until January 1, 1949.

1. The well-being of the four non-Paraguayan colonist groups—Fernheim, Menno, Friesland, Prima Vera, with the scattered residents from these parent colonies—in the establishment of their permanent life and residence in Paraguay, including the spiritual, cultural, social, and economic aspects, is the continuing concern of the M.C.C. in Paraguay.

2. Within the total M.C.C. program in Paraguay are envisioned also such additional projects as are purposed to commend to this country and its people the truest implications of the faith held by M.C.C. constituents. These projects shall be of such a nature as may commend themselves for continuance by the appropriate colonist organizations.

3. The opportunities in such a program of using available North American personnel, that is, workers who are qualified particularly in the skills lacking here, and fully meeting M.C.C. worker standards for two-year service terms, are to be amply exercised. It is felt that a careful selection, orientation, assigning of, and advance preparation and planning for such available workers will warrant using a considerable portion of the budget which may be available for the Paraguay program.

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We teach the true love and fear of God, the true love of our neighbor, to aid and assist all mankind and to injure none.—Menno Simons.

Peace Activities

PROTEST MISSISSIPPI UNIT

Men in Mennonite C.P.S. camps together with the administration at Akron will have occasion to do some thinking about the race problem in C.P.S. Seventy C.P.S. men from the Veterans' Facility Hospital, Lyons, New Jersey, have sent a protest to the National Service Board for Religious Objectors, asking them to act immediately in canceling the opening of the Public Health Unit near Gulfport, Mississippi. The protest was made because it was felt that the new unit "is not being set up on an interracial basis. We urge . . . that you seek in the future to represent us more accurately in our repudiation of jimcrowism and other race discrimination," the statement said further. The C.P.-S. Section at Akron announced that it was aware of the race problem in the setting up of this unit, and that a careful effort will be made on the project to serve both colored and white families indiscriminately.

MENNONITE C.P.S. INCREASING

The number of men in Mennonite camps has been rapidly increasing over the latter half of 1944. As of December 31, 1943, there were 2,940 men in Mennonite C.P.S., and as of December 31, 1943, the number of assignees had increased to 3,681. The increase for the year was 711,—445 of which took place from July 1 to December 31. Earlier in 1944 the strength of the camps was expected to level off at not much above 3,000. At the present rate of assignments the 4,000 level will be reached in the spring of 1945.

S.S.S. PREPARES NEW DIRECTIVE

As a result of an investigation conducted to determine in what manner directives regarding C.P.S. units at public institutions were being interpreted. Selective Service decided to issue a new directive, clarifying former instructions. According to the original directives, C.P.S. men were not permitted to live away from the institution to which they were assigned. The new directive reaffirms this order with the stipulation that in special cases assignees may live away from the institution if approval has been granted by Selective Service.

The new directive also regulates several other matters. Selective Service makes clear that medical and dental attention and services for C.P.S. employees are the obligation of the hospital. No camper is to transfer back to a base camp until he has been given full treatment by the hospital for the injuries or illnesses which have been incurred as a result of the work. Working outside the hospital during time off is permitted only when the arrangement is approved by Selective Service. The reason for this action was explained by Col. Kosch of Selective Service as follows: "Considerable criticism has been directed at our program . . . based on the fact that no control is exercised over the men and they are allowed to go and come at will, and they are further permitted to live off the grounds."

BOOKLET ON CONSCRIPTION

The editorial board of the Peace Section met in Cleveland, January 17, to further plan the preparation of a booklet on the Mennonite attitude toward conscription. It was decided that Edward Yoder, Scottdale, Pennsylvania, and Donovan Smucker, Wadsworth, Ohio, should write the pamphlet. The format will be the same as that of the Core Course books. The entire editorial board will meet again at Goshen, Indiana, March 2 and 3, to review the manuscripts and to discuss basic issues involved. It is hoped that the actual printing may take place not later than May 1.

C.O.'s STARVE FOR SCIENCE

Realizing that peace cannot take firm roots in a famine-ridden and debilitated world populace, conscientious objectors have volunteered to be subjects of an experiment in starvation, begun November 15 at the University of Minnesota, for the purpose of providing a scientific foundation for better nutritional relief methods.

For six months the forty-five volunteers will be fed a semistarvation diet, composed of foods commonly available under European famine conditions. Following this there will be a period of rehabilitation feeding, the results of which it is hoped will reveal the nutritional balance most efficient in restoring normal health after the ravages of prolonged hunger.

The experiment is being undertaken by the University of Minnesota Laboratory of Physiological Hygiene and other scientific foundations, and is a joint activity of Friends, Mennonites, and Brethren.—Afserco News.

Report from India

The more serious aspects of the famine in Bengal have been alleviated. The rice distribution and the operation of a temporary hospital and work camp, as carried on by the Mennonite workers near Calcutta, have been discontinued. But the emergency supply of food and medicine is only the first phase of a relief task which needs to be done in a famine area. The following report from J. S. Everton, in charge of the distribution of American relief in India, was sent to the American Friends Service Committee. It is dated October 31, 1944.

The actual famine is over in India, but the results of the famine are still being felt in very acute form, as for example, epidemics which sweep certain sections of the country where people who have been weakened by famine conditions do not have the necessary reserves to withstand them. The problem at the moment is a problem of meeting the needs which are the aftermath of famine conditions. Government has a very comprehensive program for meeting these needs, but unfortunately it is not possible for government to do the job without the assistance of voluntary relief agencies, who can supplement the work of government. It is true that suffering is a part of the normal plane of living of the Indian people, but the conditions which are existing during these war years have increased the suffering of the Indian people and part of our job is to alleviate suffering that has been brought about, in part at least, by war conditions. The present situation is that there are serious epidemics in several parts of India; that while the food situation is improved, there is still scarcity of certain basic items and that there are tremendous areas of need still be met.—India Famine Relief Committee Bulletin, Dec. 12, 1944.

Holland and Belgium

Occupied and Unoccupied Holland continue to suffer from shortages of food, clothing, fuel, and housing in the devastated regions. A prominent Dutch official stated that Holland's first necessity for public health is fats, but that conditions are not as critical nor as bad as in other Occupied Countries. Serious increase in the incidence of tuberculosis and skin diseases has been noted. Daily rations in the liberated areas now stand at 1,630 calories for ordinary consumers and on up to 3,049 calories for miners working underground.—Knickerbocker Weekly, Dec. 25, 1944, Jan. 1, 1945.

The neutral press comment describes the economic situation as "critical" or "desperate." While Germany controlled Belgium, say observers, unemployment was nonexistent and the economy was efficiently operated. Under the Allies, industry is practically at a standstill and a profound feeling of hopelessness has settled on the nation. "The recent German offensive rocked Belgium back on its heels and the inelasticity of the joint Allied-Belgian administration could not cushion the shock." Fuel shortages are critical, for homes as well as industry and transportation. On the brighter side, a repatriation agreement has just been concluded between the Netherlands and Belgium by which each will treat the other's nationals as their own and provide food, clothing, lodging, and other services, until they can be repatriated. Also, the Belgian War Relief Society of the United States has reached a full pact with the Belgian government and Allied military authorities for the shipment and distribution of private relief in Belgium.—N.Y. Times, Dec. 23, 1944, Jan. 28, 1945; News from Belgium, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 1945.

GIVE TO ALL IN NEED

Do not yourself decide who is worthy and who unworthy, for you may happen to be quite mistaken in your opinion; so that when in doubt through ignorance it is better to do good even to the unworthy than by being on your guard against the less good not to light upon the virtuous at all. For by being niggardly and by pretending to test who will deserve the benefit and who will not, you may possibly neglect some who are beloved of God, the penalty for which is eternal punishment by fire. But by giving freely to all in turn who need, you are absolutely certain to find one of those who have power to save you with God. Therefore, judge not, that you may not be judged; with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again. Good measure, pressed down and shaken together, running over, shall be given back to you.—From "The Rich Man's Salvation," by St. Clement of Alexandria.